

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 25 and 27 and amend Claim 21 as follows.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.-20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device comprising a catalyst assembly comprising a substrate, nanofilaments which have a nanometer-size diameter and are formed on the substrate, and particles which have a nanometer-size diameter of not more than approximately 100 nanometers, at least one of the nanofilaments and the particles having a catalytic function; wherein

the nanofilaments extend from a surface of the substrate; and
the particles are supported on the nanofilament.

22. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein adjacent nanofilaments have an interval of from 2 to 200 nanometers.

23. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein adjacent nanofilaments have an interval of from 2 to 100 nanometers.

24. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles have a diameter of from 0.5 to 50 nanometers.

25. (cancelled)

26. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the nanofilaments extend generally perpendicular from a surface of the substrate.

27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the substrate is in the shape of a plate, honeycomb, particle, or stick.

29. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the substrate comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of an oxide, a nitride, a carbide of a metal or silicon, and a solid solution thereof.

30. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles have a catalytic function.

31. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles comprise at least one selected from the group consisting of a metal, a metal oxide and a metal sulfide.

32. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles comprise platinum.

33. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 30, wherein the nanofilaments comprise a material having a co-catalytic function.

34. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 30, wherein the material has a function for adsorbing and desorbing oxygen.

35. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 30, wherein the nanofilaments comprise an oxide of cerium, zirconium or yttrium, or a solid solution thereof.

36. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 30, wherein the nanofilaments comprise CeO_2 , ZrO_2 or Y_2O_3 .

37. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 30, wherein the nanofilaments comprise CeO₂.

38. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles comprise platinum and the nanofilaments comprise CeO₂ or a solid solution of CeO₂ and ZrO₂.

39. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the catalytic function comprises purifying an automobile exhaust gas.